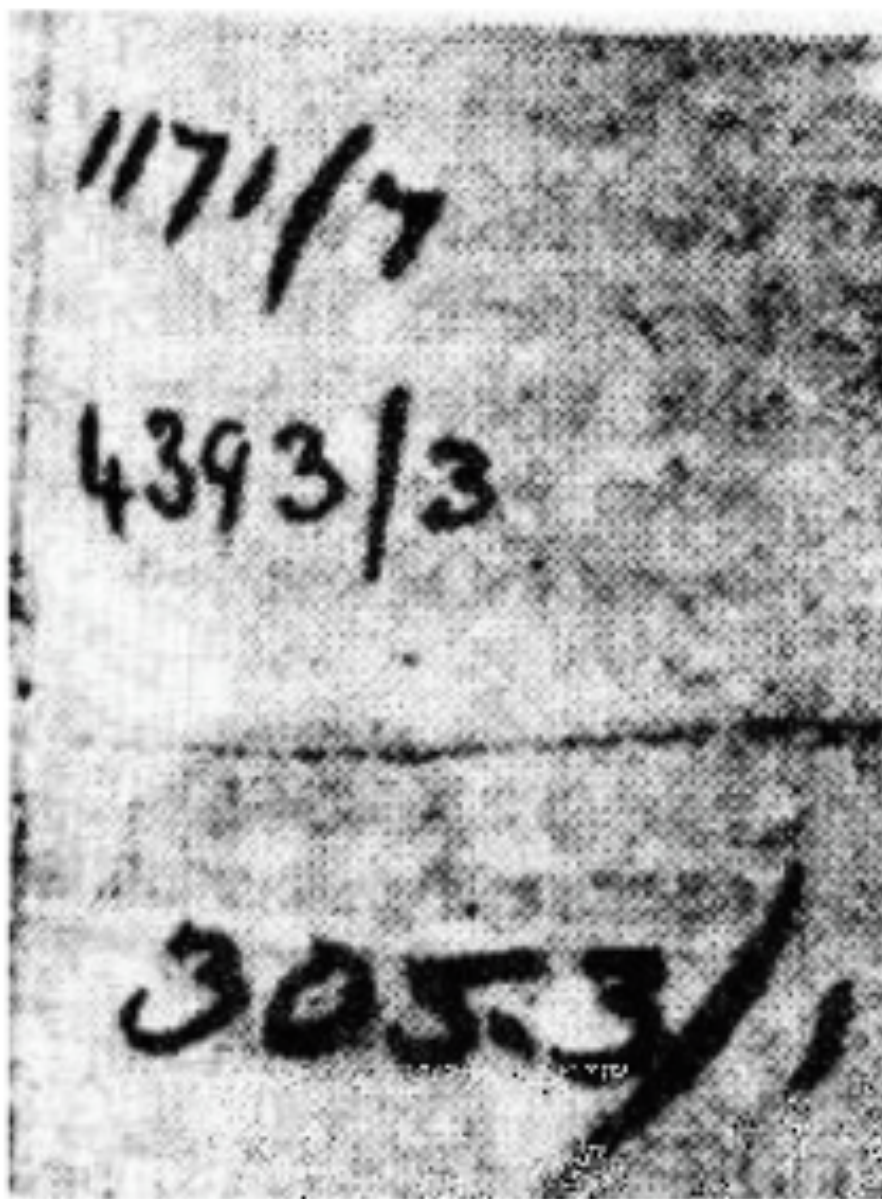**The So-Called Laundry Marks!**

Laundry Marks

Markings found on the inside lining of a trouser pocket of the Somerton Man. These were referred to as the laundry marks.

The instruction to use the ARMY CLUB Cigarette Packet as the "One Time Pad" source. Remember the packet had 7 cigarettes inside.

The time to transmit the message contained in the code, read from right to left. Time to make broadcast is 0601 ZULU (which is 3-3=0, 9-3=6, 3-3=0, 4-3=1). 0601 ZULU is 0601 UTC in modern terms.
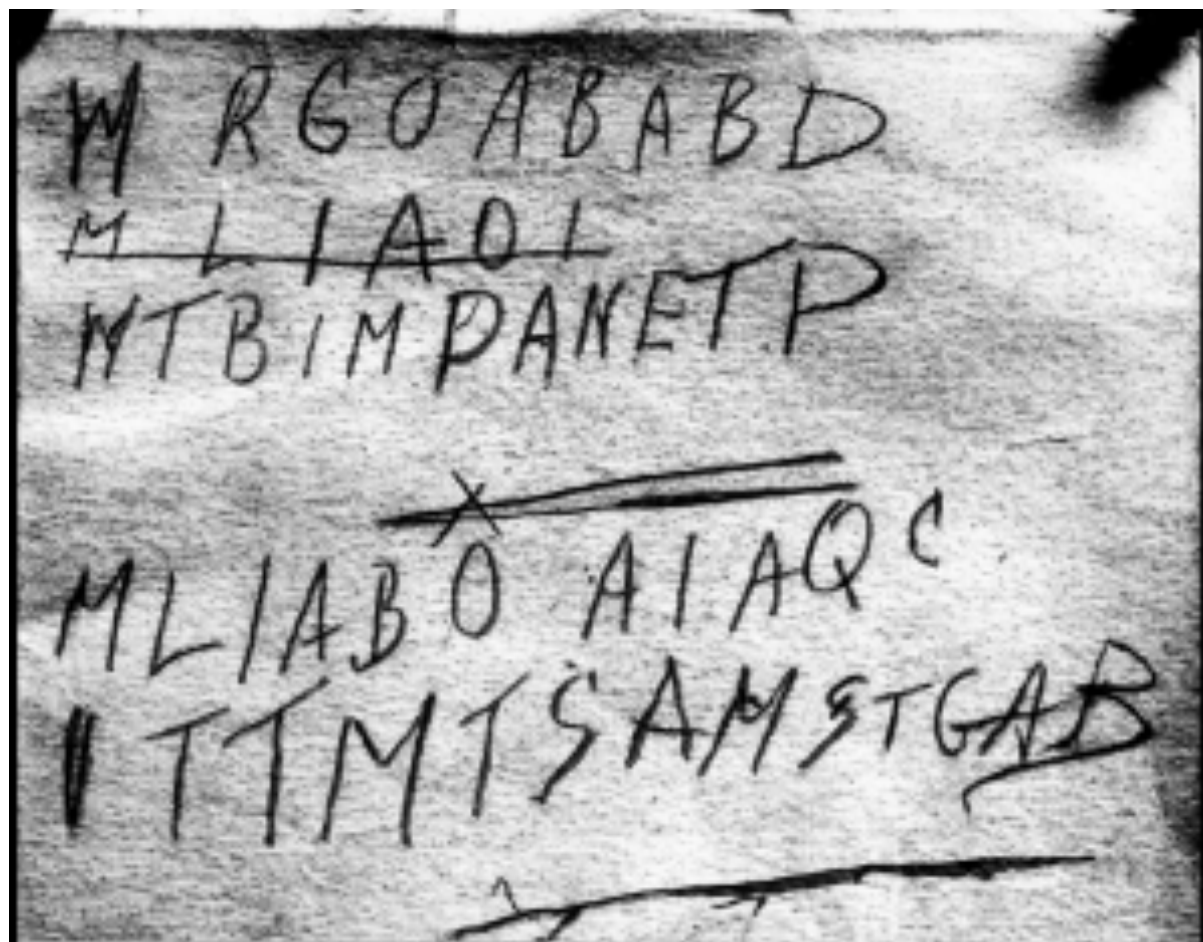
The marine radio channel to transmit the message on, read from left to right, via RATT (TeleTypewriter) The resultant decimal 4 before slash indicates to apply 400Hz of modulation (or more accurately called offset) to transmission.
i.e. Marine Channel 416 with 400Hz modulation.
(416 is 3+1=4, 0+1=1, 5+1=6, .3+1=.4)
Channel 416 relays to California and Washington amongst very many other sites including in Australia.

Laundry Marks

As every "One Time Pad" needs both a pad and a key, I advised (above) that the pad is the Army Club packet itself. I can advise that the "key" is the number in each of the green ovals above. The number after the slash indicates the number of spaces moved in the direction indicated on "The Code" diagram below. Even though it uses "One Time Pad" principles, the Army Club Code system was re-used many times around mid to late 1945-early 1946 then abandoned once it started to attract interest after showing up in several crimes.

THE SOMERTON MAN CODE:-

Aaaah, the code. Watch how we decode it!

This is a copy (above) of the actual Pigeon Code which is yet to be decrypted. This was found in a boarded up fireplace years after it was sent. The page was still in the red capsule attached to the leg of a pigeon skeleton and is truly a one time pad where the sender burns his page when sent and the receiver burns his page when decrypted.

For an understanding of the functionality of the "One Time Pad" system search for "The Pigeon Code" which was used for message transfer during the "D Day Invasion of Normandy" to free France from German occupation.

To the Code:-

The first two M's looked from the start as not just M's but a signal that there was some skipping involved as the middle of these M's didn't reach the bottom and what is more important is that they had deliberately been written this way. The later M's were clearly just M's for Message.

The 4 lines of the message text are basically 8 letters long with some other letters added before and after, where required, for an action to be done.
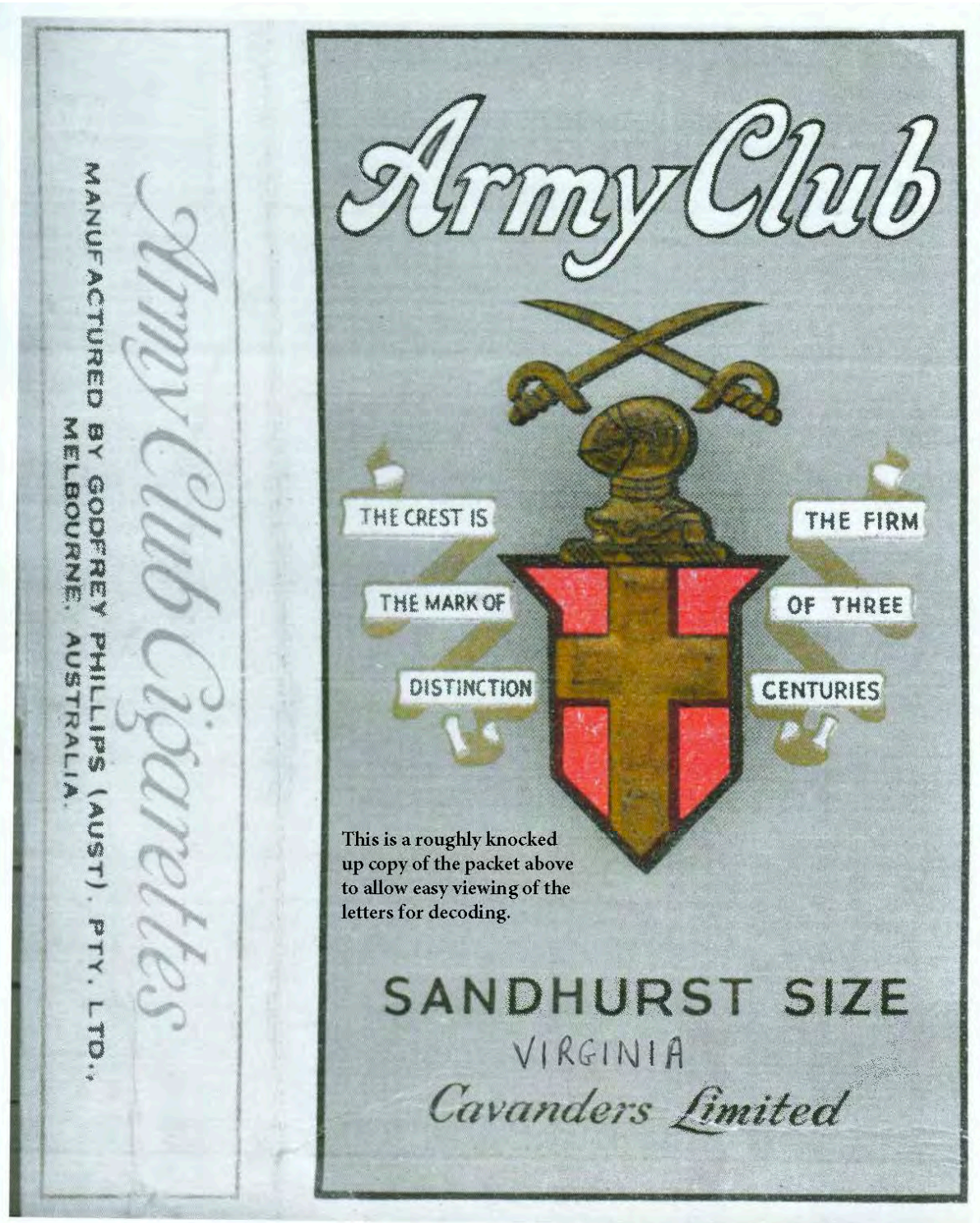
As "One Time Pad" codes need both a pad and a key, in this case the pad is the cigarette packet itself, and the key is the "Laundry Marks" in the trousers. i.e. 1171/7 (see the Laundry Marks section above). The 1171 indicates that this is a message for/from the Army Club. And the /7 indicates a movement of 7 places.

The only difference here is that the people used this "One Time Pad" code many times, not just the once. This is likely thanks to "George" Marshall for its design.

The first 2 lines of the code use the cigarette packet writing in the top line Army Club, then the block to the left of the shield, then the lower text block.

The second 2 lines of the code use the top line Army Club, then the block to the right of the shield, then the lower text.

This is a roughly knocked up copy of the packet above to allow easy viewing of the letters for decoding.

Godfrey Phillips started making and packaging Army Club Cigarettes under license in Australia in 1930 and the code participants were operating in Australia so an Australian packet was used.

The P is on the side panel. As it's the only P on the packet it guarantees the only option is an Australian manufactured Army Club pack.
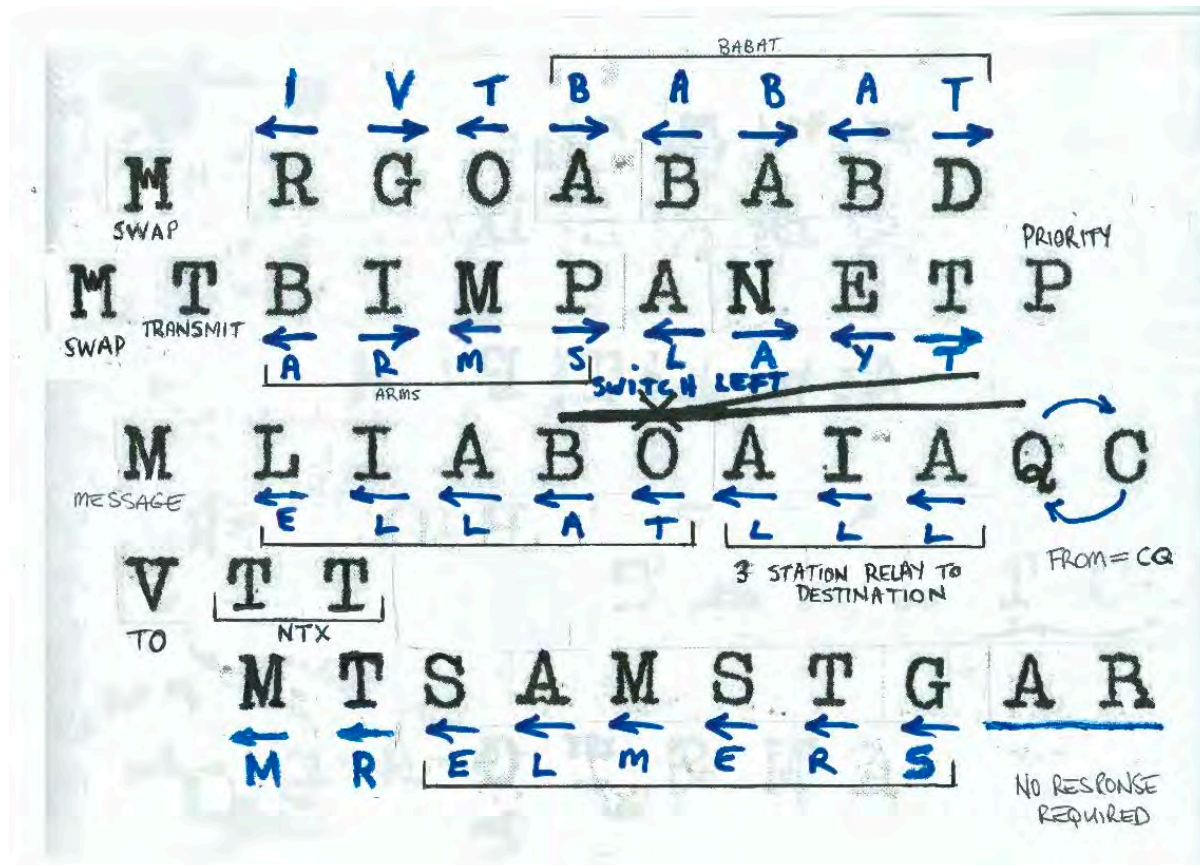
As the number 7 appears after the slash on the laundry marks, you move 7 letter spaces in the direction of the arrow from the originating letter. Military usually went left, right, left, etc.

At the half way point the X and large left arrow means switch to left.

Also of note:- It is unlikely the writer would disguise her name as the sender in/of the code and then write her phone number in normal text mode on the same page, so the phone number had to be written later for some reason.

OK, then let's break it down!

The methodology is consistent across the whole code, and that is to **start** at the **first occurrence** of each code letter on the packet and move in the direction of the arrow.

Top Line:-

<- The first R in the top code line is the second letter in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. The r starts at A, then d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then the seventh letter to the left is i. So R becomes I.

-> The G in the top code line is the G in Virginia. As the arrow points right you go forwards. The G starts at I, then N, then I, then A, then C in Cavanders, then a, then the seventh letter to the right is v. So G becomes v.

<- The O in the top code line is the O in "THE MARK OF". As the arrow points left you go backwards. O starts at K, then R, then A, then M, then E, then H, then the seventh letter to the left is T. So O becomes T.

-> The A in the top code line is the first letter in Army. As the arrow points right you go forwards. A starts at r, then m, then y, then C, then l, then u, then the seventh letter to the right is b. So A becomes B.

<- The B in the top code line is the b in Club. As the arrow points left you go backwards. The b starts at u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then r, then the seventh letter to the left is A. So B becomes A.

-> The second A in the top code line is the first letter in Army. As the arrow points right you go forwards. A starts at r, then m, then y, then C, then l, then u, then the seventh letter to the right is b. So A becomes B.

<- The second B in the top code line is the b in Club. As the arrow points left you go backwards. B starts at u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then r, then the seventh letter to the left is A. So B becomes A.

-> The D in the top code line is the first letter N in DISTINCTION. As the arrow points right you go forwards. D starts at I, then S, then T, then I, then N, then C, then the seventh letter to the right is T. So D becomes T.

Second Line:-

T = Transmit

<- The B in the second code line is the b in Club. As the arrow points left you go backwards. B starts at u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then r, then the seventh letter to the left is A. So B becomes A.

-> The I in the second code line is the I in CREST IS. As the arrow points right you go forwards. I starts at S, then T, then H, then E, then M, then A, then the seventh letter to the right is R. So I becomes R.

<- The M in the second code line is the third letter in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. The m starts at r, then A, then d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is m. So M becomes M.

-> The P in the second code line is the first letter in PHILLIPS on the side panel. As the arrow points right you go forwards. P starts at H, then I, then L, then L, then I, then P, then the seventh letter to the right is S. So P becomes S.

<- The A in the second code line is the A in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. A starts at the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is L. So A becomes L.

-> The N in the second code line is the first letter N in DISTINCTION. As the arrow points right you go forwards. N starts at C, then T, then I, then O, then N, then S (in SANDHURST), then the seventh letter to the right is A. So N becomes A.

<- The E in the second code line is the E in THE CR…. As the arrow points left you go backwards. E starts at H, then T, then b at the end of Club, then u, then l, then C, then the seventh letter to the left is y. So E becomes Y.

-> The T in the second code line is the T in THE CR….. As the arrow points right you go forwards. T starts at H, then E, then C, then R, then E, then S, then the seventh letter to the right is T. So T becomes T.

P = PRIORITY

X = Change required

= All to the left now.

Third Line:-

<- The L in the third code line is the l in Club. As the arrow points left you go backwards. The l starts at C, then y, then m, then r, then A, then d (in Limited), then the seventh letter to the left is e. So L becomes E.

<- The I in the third code line is the I in THE FIRM. As the arrow points left you go backwards. I starts at F, then E, then H, then T, then b in Club, then u, then the seventh letter to the left is l. So I becomes L.

<- The A in the third code line is the A in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. A starts at the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is L. So A becomes L.

<- The B in the third code line is the b in Club. As the arrow points left you go backwards. B starts at u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then r, then the seventh letter to the left is A. So B becomes A.

<- The O in the third code line is the O in OF THREE. As the arrow points left you go backwards. O starts at M in FIRM, then R, then I, then F, then E, then H, then the seventh letter to the left is T. So O becomes T.

<- The A in the third code line is the A in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. A starts at the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is L. So A becomes L.   **

<- The I in the third code line is the I in THE FIRM. As the arrow points left you go backwards. I starts at F, then E, then H, then T, then b in Club, then u, then the seventh letter to the left is l. So I becomes L.   **

<- The A in the third code line is the A in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. A starts at the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is L. So A becomes L.   **

QC = CQ (or call originator, from). You may have heard a call something like "CQ CQ this is Shotgun". This is the same in TeleTypewriter Systems.

** In NTX normally the number of repeater stations a message goes through is indicated by numbers. If it goes through 3 you would see 3 3 3 or 3-3-3. But because this code uses only letters from the cigarette packet (no numerals available), the 3's are replaced by LLL (= Location Location Location)

Fourth Line:-

V = To

TT = US Navy/Marines TeleTypewriter Exchange System known as NTX.

<- The M in the fourth code line is the m in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. M starts at r, then A, then the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is m. So M becomes M.

<- The T in the fourth code line is the T in THE FIRM. As the arrow points left you go backwards. T starts at b in Club, then u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then the seventh letter to the left is r. So T becomes R.

<- The S in the fourth code line is the S in CENTURIES. As the arrow points left you go backwards. S starts at the E, then I, then R, then U, then T, then N, then the seventh letter to the left is E. So S becomes E.

<- The A in the fourth code line is the A in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. A starts at the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then m, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is L. So A becomes L.
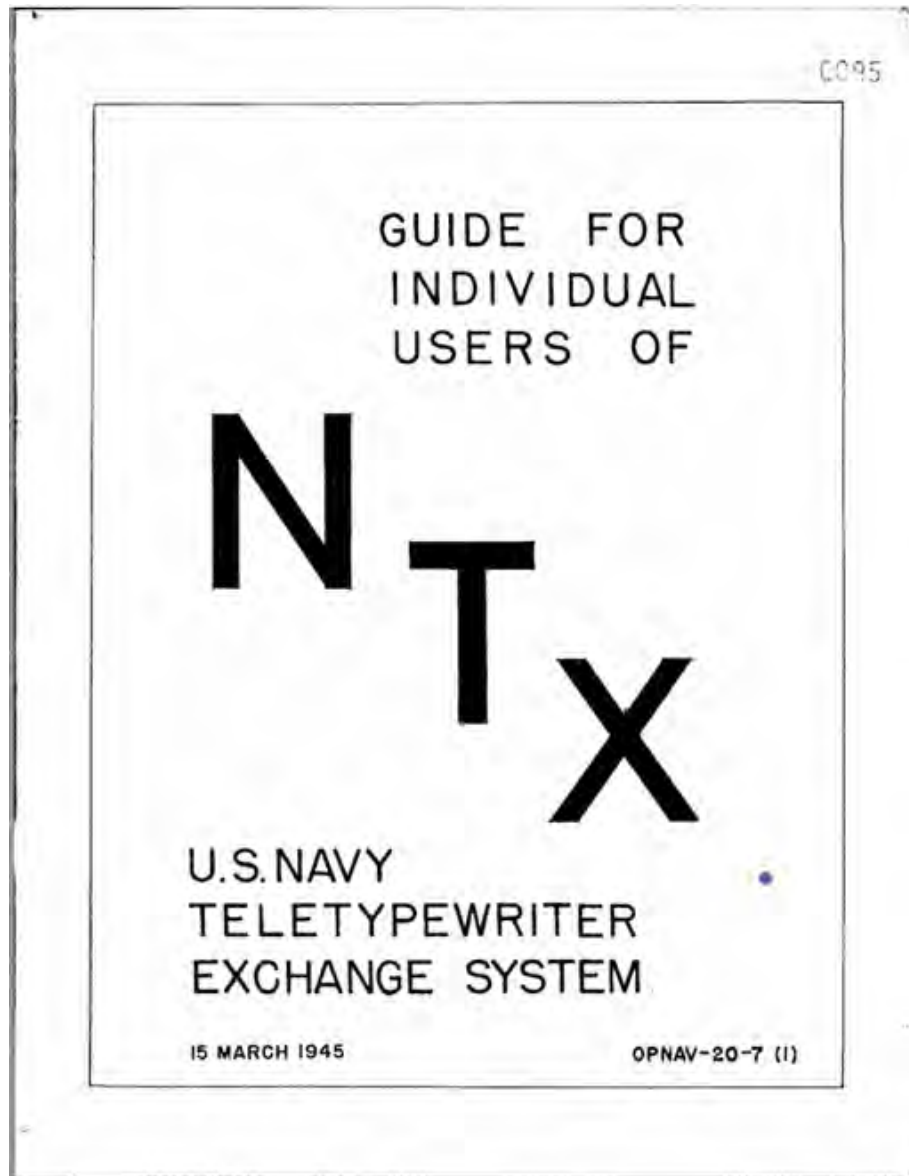
<- The M in the fourth code line is the m in Army. As the arrow points left you go backwards. M starts at r, then A, then the d (in Limited), then e, then t, then i, then the seventh letter to the left is m. So M becomes M.
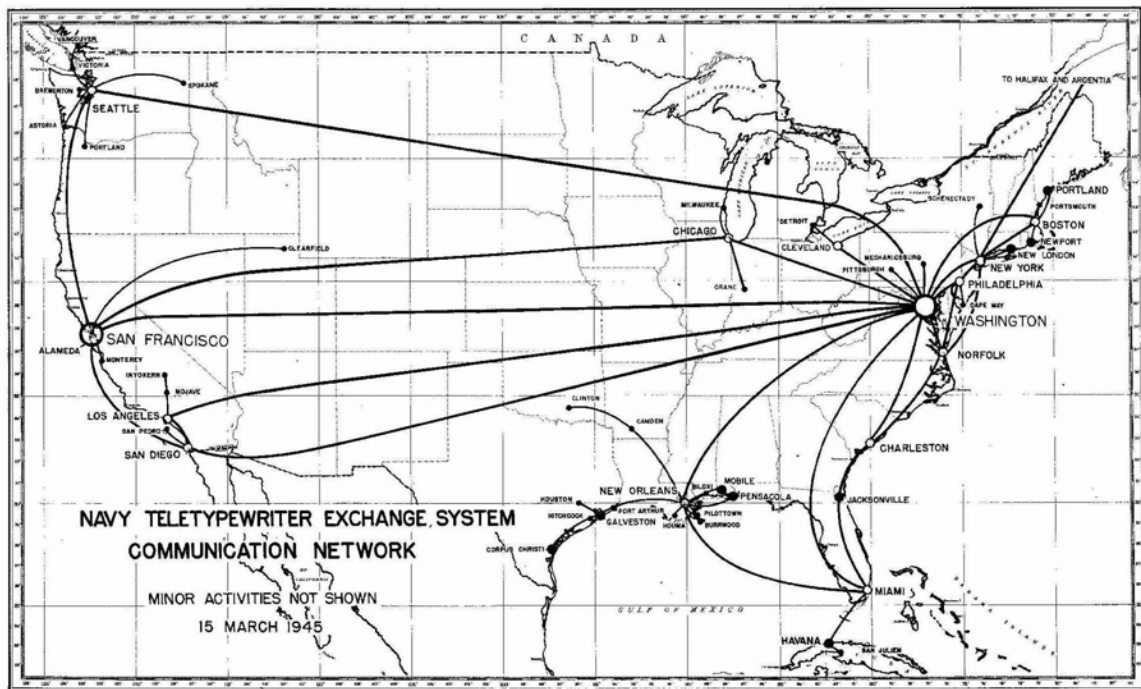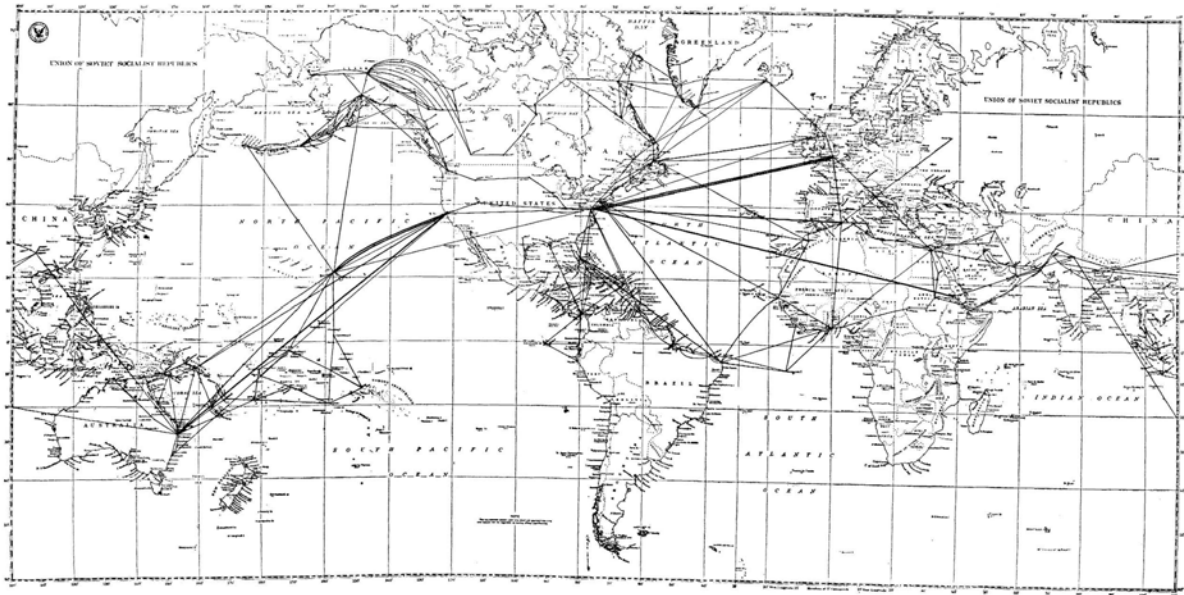
<- The S in the fourth code line is the S in CENTURIES. As the arrow points left you go backwards. S starts at the E, then I, then R, then U, then T, then N, then the seventh letter to the left is E. So S becomes E.

<- The T in the fourth code line is the T in THE FIRM. As the arrow points left you go backwards. T starts at b in Club, then u, then l, then C, then y, then m, then the seventh letter to the left is r. So T becomes R.

<- The G in the fourth code line is the G in VIRGINIA. As the arrow points left you go backwards. G starts at R, then I, then V, then E in SIZE, then Z, then I, then the seventh letter to the left is S. So G becomes S.

AR = End of Transmission or No Reply Required (Same thing)

GUIDE FOR
INDIVIDUAL
USERS OF

NTx

U.S. NAVY
TELETYPEWRITER
EXCHANGE SYSTEM

15 MARCH 1945   OPNAV-20-7 (I)

NAVY TELETYPEWRITER EXCHANGE, SYSTEM
COMMUNICATION NETWORK

MINOR ACTIVITIES NOT SHOWN
15 MARCH 1945

In my opinion the top line is "**I**n **V**essel **T**o **BABAT**"
(BABAT is on the Solo River in Java, Indonesian) so the arms in line 2 were heading for Major William **Jestyn** Moulds MBE to receive before transfer to the US Military.

In line 2 "**ARMS** **L**eft **A**merica **Y**esterday's **T**ide" ##   (see note ## below this section)

In line 3 **CQ** = From, and "**ELLAT**" is Jessica Ellen Thomson (aka Ella) and "**LLL**" signifies 3 relays to the recipient.   (**L**ocation **L**ocation **L**ocation)
Usually the number of relays would be shown as 3 3 3 or 3-3-3 but this code is only capable of using letters.

In line 4 the **V** = To and the **TT** indicates the use of the US Navy Teletypewriter Exchange System (NTX) then follows the actual receiver "**MRELMERS**" i.e. MR ELMER S.

The "**AR**" underlined means a reply is not requested (or end of transmission) depending on which manual you use.

USS Indianapolis left San Diego (California) at this time with half the Uranium U235 bound for
-         Tinian Island in the Marianas Group where the atomic devices were being assembled and readied.

The seven Kensitas Cigarettes inside the Army Club pack have to do with collectors cards supplied with each packet during the 1930's and very early 1940's. They were included to point to a person much the same as the items in the pockets of the man on the beach. Further explanation will be included when these items are outlined later.